



Borough of Folkestone

REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of Folkestone,

DURING THE YEAR, 1896,

BY

M. G. YUNGE BATEMAN,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A., D.P.H. (CANTAB.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

To which are appended the Annual Reports of the
Buildings Inspector and Sanitary Inspector for the
Year 1896.

FOLKESTONE :

PRINTED BY T. KENTFIELD, EAST KENT WORKS, 13, GRACE HILL.

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1897.



BOROUGH OF FOLKESTONE.

REPORT.

To the Town Council of the Borough of Folkestone.

(COPY.)

15, CASTLE HILL AVENUE,

FOLKESTONE,

January 20th, 1897.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report for your information that during the year ending December 31st, 1896, 643 births and 338 deaths were registered,

giving a birth rate of 23·9 and a gross death rate of 12·5 in an estimated permanent population of 26,900. Thirty-nine deaths are returned among persons not belonging to the district, and twenty-four occurred outside the district among persons belonging thereto, therefore the corrected death rate is 12·0 for the permanent population.

The area of the Borough is 2481 acres which gives a density of population 10·8 persons per acre.

The following Table shows the Birth and Death rates since 1888.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate
1888	26·7	13·1
1889	26·1	13·8
1890	25·0	13·8
1891	26·0	13·3
1892	25·5	15·1
1893	23·0	14·6
1894	24·1	12·4
1895	24·7	13·7
1896	23·9	12·0

Table A.

Shewing Mortality from different Diseases under 5 year and 5 years and upwards.

	22	TOTALS		119	219
	21	All other diseases.		52	106
	20	Injuries		5	14
	19	Influenza		0	1
	18	Heart Disease		1	25
	17	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy		14	29
	16	Phthisis		11	30
	15	Rheumatic Fever		0	3
	14	Dirrhœa & Dysentery		9	0
	13	Whooping Cough		1	0
	12	Measles		21	2
	11	Erysipelas		0	1
	10	Cholera		0	0
	9	Puerperal		0	1
	8	Relapsing		0	0
	7	Continued		0	0
	6	Enteric or Typhoid		0	4
	5	Typhus		0	0
	4	Membranous Croup		0	1
	3	Diphtheria		5	1
	2	Scarlatina		0	1
	1	Smallpox		0	0
				Under 5	5 & upwards

There were 45 deaths due to the seven principal Zymotic diseases. The following table shows the deaths due to these diseases since 1890

Table B.

		1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Small Pox	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	6	0	0	26	1	2	23
Diphtheria, including								
Membranous Croup		0	5	13	28	47	7	7
Whooping Cough	...	10	2	3	0	1	3	1
"Fever,"	{ Typhus	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
	{ Simple, continued	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
	{ Typhoid	...	4	2	0	2	0	4
	{ Diarrhœa	...	3	4	14	3	23	9
Scarlet Fever	...	1	0	6	3	0	1	1
Total		24	13	36	77	54	36	45

This gives a Zymotic death rate for those years as follows:—

1890	...	1·0
1891	...	0·5
1892	..	1·4
1893	...	3·0
1894	...	2·0
1895	...	1·3
1896	...	1·5

The Infant Mortality rate, based upon the number of children under one year dying out of those born during the year, recorded per 1000 is 122. This is an improvement upon last year.

	Infant Mortality Rate	
1892	...	127·7
1893	...	168·9
1894	...	105·9
1895	...	150·0
• 1896	...	122·0

The total number of children dying under 1 year of age is 79. Of this total 10 deaths were registered as premature births.

Phthisis.—There were 41 deaths due to this disease, 11 being under 5 years of age and 30 over. Of this number 5 occurred among non-residents of the district and should be deducted from the total. This gives a phthisis death rate of 1·3 per 1000 living of the permanent population.

Zymotic Diseases.

Diphtheria.—There have been 51 notifications of this disease during the year.

First Quarter	...	...	8
Second „	...	...	13
Third „	...	...	21
Fourth „	...	...	9

Of these cases six proved fatal. There has been no appearance of an epidemic, the cases being scattered about in different parts of the town. It is remarkable that only seven cases occurred among children attending the elementary schools. In September, 4 cases arose in one family of visitors and was carried by one of the children having the disease in a mild form when she arrived. Six other cases were imported, one of these contracted the disease at school outside the borough, where there were then other cases.

Typhoid Fever.—Two distinct outbreaks of Typhoid fever have occurred this year, due to infected milk supplies. In both instances the milk supply came from outside the Borough, and over these supplies we have no direct control. The first of these occurred in May, although in February an isolated case had occurred having the

same milk supply. Between May 2nd and 16th, six cases were notified. Proceedings were taken under sec. 4 Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, and a magistrate's order was obtained to inspect the dairy which was situated outside the Borough. It was found on examination that the water supply for the use of the dairy was seriously polluted by sewage, and that in February one of the men employed had had an attack of Typhoid. Also the cesspool was in close proximity to the well, hence the typhoid in the Borough. Steps were immediately taken to stop the supply of milk until a fresh and satisfactory water supply had been obtained after which no further cases of Typhoid arose from that source. The second outbreak occurred in December and gave rise to seven cases, six of whom, living in different parts of the town, widely separated from one another, were taken ill about the same date. All the cases were supplied from the same dairy, which however was in no way connected with that which caused the previous outbreak. The seventh case had only been supplied from it for one month before the case was notified, previous to which milk from another source had been used, considerable difficulty was found in dealing with this case. The dairy-man who supplied the milk, keeps no cows himself but draws his supply from five or six different cow-keepers, who send their milk to his dairy where it is mixed and then conveyed by him to the consumer. In this case there was no direct evidence of contamination of the milk as in the former instance, for on inquiry I was told there had been no case of Typhoid notified in that district within the last five years. Under these circumstances I did not feel justified in acting in the same manner as before. I therefore communicated with the authorities in whose district the dairy and cow-sheds were situated, drawing their attention to the facts of the

case, and requesting them to use all means in their power to prevent a recurrence of the complaint, I have received a reply to the effect that they are doing all that I have requested. Five other cases occurred between these two outbreaks at different time, two were distinctly imported, the patients having contracted the disease before coming into the town; the other three, two of whom belonged to the same family, arose from drinking water drawn from polluted surface wells. The two outbreaks show how entirely we are at the mercy of circumstances over which we have no direct control, although by the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act we can deal with a dairy situated outside the Borough when we have reason to suspect it is the cause of illness within the Borough; it is only after the illness has actually occurred and when it can be shown by a certain number of cases that the milk has been the cause, that we can take action. In the meantime much valuable time has been lost and the milk is still being consumed, for the legal machinery takes time to set in motion. It seems to me a pity that the Borough to which the milk is supplied cannot have the same direct control, over the dairies supplying it from outside, that it has over those within its boundaries.

Measles.—An extensive epidemic occurred in the summer and was responsible for 23 deaths. As usual this complaint had managed to get a firm hold before it came under notice, This is due to the popular fallacy that measles is a disease that all children are bound to contract, and the sooner it is over the better. In consequence, when a case occurs in a house of the lower classes, no attention is paid to isolation nor are precautions taken against spreading the disease, the child is allowed to mix with the others of the family, often the healthy are placed in the same room in order that they

may contract the disease, and if the child is not rendered incapable of attending, by bronchitis or other serious sequelæ it is sent to school within a week, whereby fresh batches of children are infected. Owing to the lax manner in which I have received support from the schools I have not been able to receive notice of the disease occurring amongst the scholars, this is, I believe, on account of the dread of children from infected houses being kept from school and thereby lessening the attendance, but it only resulted in my having to advise the closure of certain schools, after which the disease disappeared. In consequence of this, I have in my annual reports, for the last three years, frequently advocated the necessity for measles being made notifiable for a period of five years. This advise was adopted by the Sanitary Committee, but was thrown out by the Corporation. I can only hope, at least, attention has at last been drawn to the fact that measles is not such a trivial disease as some people would like to make out, that the general apathy with which the lower classes regard it will be broken through, and that they will realize that it is time they should look upon measles with as much dread as, in the past, they did scarlet fever, for the former is infinitely more dangerous to life, measles accounting for 58, scarlet fever only 11 deaths in the last seven years. Had it not been for the deaths from measles this year, we might have shown a death rate of 11 per 1000 instead of 12, which latter is the lowest we have had in the last 9 years.

Scarlet Fever.—There has been 44 notifications of this disease during the year, one ending fatally. In the first half of the year there were nine, four of these were distinctly imported cases. In the third quarter there were 17, three of them were imported, of the remaining 14, six were grouped around Radnor Park, and evidently

were infected by some common cause which was not discovered, the others occurred sporadically in different parts of the town. In the last quarter 18 cases occurred. That portion of Sandgate that comes into your district was answerable for five, and from inquiries I have ascertained that other cases occurred in the Sandgate District. Four cases were imported, and the remainder were scattered over the various parts of the town.

There has been no epidemic form of the disease nor could I trace one case being infected from another or from any common cause, with the exception of those at Sandgate and round Radnor Park.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

Small-Pox Hospital.—There has been no admissions this year. I have twice visited this building and found it clean and in readiness for the reception of patients.

Sanatorium.—The admissions to this Hospital during the year were 77, and were as under viz :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	29
Typhoid	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	2
Suspicious Throats	...	...	6
Doubtful Scarlet Fever.	...	...	2
„ Typhoid	...	...	1
Under treatment Dec. 31st., 1896			3
			<hr/> 80
			Total
			<hr/>

Deaths :—

Diphtheria	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Typhoid	...	...	1
			<hr/> 6
			Total
			<hr/>

Under treatment Dec. 31st, 1896:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			5 Total

Extension of Sanatorium.—Plans have been approved by the Local Government Board for the addition of a new ward block, an administrative block, new laundry and disinfecting apparatus, and building, which will now suffice for the present requirements of the Borough, and I hope the building operations will shortly be put in hand.

Public Sewers, Drainage, &c.—In conjunction with the Borough Surveyor I inspected and reported upon the condition of Shorncliffe Station and that district known as Coolinge Villas, these all drained into cesspools and were very unsatisfactory.

The Station drainage has now been connected with the sewer in Cheriton Road, and a loan has been applied for to extend the sewer from Shorncliffe Road, in order that the Coolinge Villa district may be connected with it.

The following sewers have been relaid:—

Black Bull Road (from Pavilion Road to Walton Road)

Cheriton Road and Shellons Street.

Denmark Street.

New sewers have been put in at

Broadmead Road (extension)

And through Pilcher's Garden, Grove End Estate.

Legislation—Housing of the Working Classes Act.—

Of the 46 houses reported on in 1895 as unfit for human habitation, eight have been rendered fit for habitation, and three have been closed.

During the year three other house have been added to the list, one of which has been demolished, one closed and the third is undergoing repairs.

At your request I inspected and reported upon a certain portion of Radnor Street which includes Clout's Alley, Dunn's Alley, and the intervening property. Acting on that report a scheme is now under consideration for the reconstruction of that area.

Public Health Amendment Act.—I again draw your attention to the powers you possess of making bye-laws, under Section 23 of this Act, extending the existing bye-laws relating to new buildings, to the closets, and drainage of houses, erected before the passing of the Public Health Act of 1875.

Building Bye-Laws.—I drew attention last year to the necessity of remodelling part of these bye-laws, and I am glad to say that action has been taken thereupon. The Local Government Board sent down two Inspectors to go into the matter, and we are now waiting the result of their report.

Slaughter House.—I must again draw your attention to the condition and position of these buildings. They are without exception antiquated premises and their position is a disgrace to the town, placed as some of them are in narrow streets in the heart of it. The time has arrived for a suitable building to be erected which will ensure proper inspection of the meat, and the efficient control over the Sanitary arrangements as provided by the most recent bye-laws.

Water Supply.—During the first half of the year we suffered considerably from drought, in fact the rainfall for the first five months only amounted to 5·5 inches, and

in consequence the supply became short, and if it had not been judiciously served we should have been very seriously affected during the season when the population is so largely increased.

Since July we have had an abundant rainfall and the supply is more than ample.

I am glad to say the quality has been quite up to the usual excellence throughout.

Private Supply.—Samples of water from nine wells have been analysed, in four cases the water was found satisfactory, in the five others it was polluted by sewage material, and in these cases the wells were closed or rendered safe and cleaned.

Appended are the Meteorological Observations for the year.

I beg also to enclose the Reports of the Sanitary and Building Inspector.

I remain, Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

M. G. YUNGE-BATEMAN,
M.R.C.S., L.S.A., D.P.H. (Camb.)

Medical Officer of Health.

FOLKESTONE METEOROLOGICAL CHART, 1896.

15

MONTH	MEAN	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY RANGE	SUNSHINE. <i>Per</i> <i>Jordan's Recorder</i> hrs. min.	RAIN FALL.	Relative Humidity
JANUARY	40°.6	52°.9	31°.8	44°.7	36°.6	8°.1	46 10	1.35	92
FEBRUARY	40°.2	54°.1	29°.	44°.7	35°.7	9°.	97 20	.14	92
MARCH	45°.6	65°.6	32°.8	51°.9	39°.4	12°.5	152 25	2.84	89
APRIL	47°.6	61°.	33°.8	53°.7	41°.5	12°.2	166 40	.98	86
MAY	52°.1	70°.	38°.4	59°.	45°.2	13°.8	299 40	.26	80
JUNE	60°.6	76°.4	46°.4	67°.2	54°.	13°.2	284 10	3.18	82
JULY	62°.4	77°.	49°.	69°.3	55°.5	13°.8	277 20	1.12	87
AUGUST	59°.7	72°.8	46°.8	66°.2	53°.2	12°.9	184 5	3.94	88
SEPTEMBER	57°.7	74°.4	42°.	64°.3	51°.1	13°.2	152 38	6.38	94
OCTOBER	48°.7	62°.8	34°.	54°.2	43°.2	11°.	124 20	6.13	96
NOVEMBER	41°.9	52°.1	30°.	46°.2	37°.7	8°.5	97 15	2.26	96
DECEMBER	39°.5	50°.1	25°.8	43°.7	35°.8	7°.9	44 55	4.17	92

Mean Temperature for year 49°.7

Mean daily range, 11°.3

Mean Relative Humidity, 89

Total Rainfall, 32.75 inches

Mean Daily Rainfall, .08 inches

Total Sunshine, 1926 hours 58 minutes

Mean daily Sunshine, 5 hours 14 minutes

Sanitary and Building Inspectors Office,
Folkestone,

January 12th, 1897.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Mayor and Members of the Urban Sanitary
Authority.

Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my 7th Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1896, showing the amount of work undertaken and carried out by me in the Abatement and suppression of Nuisances and other duties imposed upon me under the "Public Health Act," 1875, and other statutes, or by the Orders of Local Government Board.

The inspection of the District has been systematically carried out during the year, and every means taken to keep it in a good Sanitary condition, and wherever Nuisances were found to exist, Notices were promptly served on the persons responsible to abate the same.

During the year I have carried out 867 inspections of houses in certain streets of the Borough where periodical house to house inspection is most needed and have investigated 173 complaints of Nuisances. 278 Notices were served for the abatement of the Nuisances and Sanitary defects discovered, but in a large number of cases letters to the Owners, calling their attention to the state of

their premises, caused the same to be put into Sanitary repair. It was however, necessary, in 11 cases to serve final Notices, these were complied, with except in one case, which came before the Bench, an Order being made for the work to be carried out within one month.

493 re-inspections were made, while the works were in progress, for the abatement of Nuisances.

The following is a list of Nuisances abated and Sanitary defects remedied.

- 19 Foul and Defective Pan w.c's. and D traps removed.
- 38 Soilpipes removed outside and ventilated.
- 45 Foul Long-hopper w.c's. removed and wash-down w.c's. fixed.
- 25 Sinks trapped or disconnected from drain.
- 41 Back-yards, passages and wash-house floors repaired or relaid.
- 64 Blocked drains cleansed.
- 43 Defective and leaky drains re-constructed with glazed Sanitary pipes and proper joints.
- 14 Defective bell-traps removed and siphon traps substituted.
- 9 Separate water supplies provided where the drinking water was found to be drawn from the same cistern as supplied w.c.
- 10 Bath and lavatory waste pipes trapped and disconnected from drain.
- 36 Defective roofs repaired which caused dampness in houses.
- 48 Houses provided with proper guttering and down-spouts or repaired.

- 14 Nuisances from keeping fowls and animals in dirty condition abated.
- 15 Foul accumulations of refuse removed.
- 9 Dirty houses cleansed on notice.
- 4 Cases of overcrowding.
- 12 Drinking water cisterns provided with proper covers.
- 21 Storage tanks provided to houses in intermittent area.

Periodical inspections were made to the various Public Elementary Schools to ensure proper cleanliness of the Sanitary conveniences.

Having reported on the insanitary condition of Shorncliffe Station and its Cesspool drainage, the whole system has been reconstructed and properly connected to the Town Sewers.

Sanitary Certification of Houses.

111 Sanitary Certificates have been granted to houses and hotels during the past year. Since the inauguration of this system 614 premises in the Borough have been granted Certificates, showing that this system continues to be much appreciated, and is the cause of a large amount of voluntary sanitary improvement.

Port Sanitary Authority.

During the past years 135 Coast-wise vessels and 12 Foreign vessels have been inspected and have been found in a satisfactory sanitary state, with one exception, when a notice was served on the Master to cleanse and properly cover water tanks and to whitewash Forecastle. Again it is satisfactory to note that no case of infectious disease was introduced into the Borough, by the shipping during the past year.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

At the end of 1895 the number of houses reported by the Medical Officer and myself in joint report, to be unfit for human habitation were 46 in number. Since that date seven houses in Canterbury Road and one in Norris Place have been rendered fit for habitation, and three houses in Csstle's Yard have been permanently closed. During the past year three houses have been reported to the Authority as being unfit for habitation, of these one has been demolished, one closed and an attempt is being made to render the remaining one fit for habitation. In two instances proceedings have been taken before the Borough Bench to obtain closing orders. Certain works having been carried out at these houses, the Bench considered them rendered fit for habitation and declined to make closing orders.

Water Supply.

11 samples of well water have been submitted to the Public Analyst for Analysis. Four samples were found satisfactory, five were found polluted, in which cases the wells have been closed or cleansed. Two of these samples were taken from outside the district in assisting us to trace an outbreak of Typhoid Fever which occurred in the Borough from a rural milk supply. Both samples were found to be seriously polluted.

Factory and Workshops Act.

The Non-textile Factories and Workshops in the Borough have been periodically inspected so as to ensure proper ventilation, cleanliness, and to prevent over-crowding. A case of over-working young persons in a factory was reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories, which led to the conviction of the offender.

Slaughter Houses.

There are now seven slaughter houses in the Borough, a reduction of one on last year. That at Walton Farm being removed outside the Borough. They have been regularly inspected to ensure compliance with the bye-laws. As I have before pointed out, those slaughter houses situated in congested districts, cannot fail to be a source of nuisance to the immediate neighbourhood. The bye-laws governing slaughter houses are of a very antiquated character, and more modern ones should be adopted.

Common Lodging Houses.

The five common lodging houses have been frequently inspected to ensure compliance with the bye-laws. In two of these houses I had to request that a portion of the bedding, which was in a dilapidated state, should be replaced with new.

Milkshops, Dairies and Cowsheds.

The Milkshops, Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly inspected. In only two instances has it been found necessary to complain of want of cleanliness. I estimate that nine-tenths of the milk consumed in the Borough is delivered, direct to the consumer, from the outside districts, it will therefore be seen that we are at a great disadvantage in the supervision of the milk supply, having no power to regularly inspect the outside cowsheds.

Food and Drugs.

The meat, fish and fruit supply of the Borough continues to be satisfactory, no seizures having been made during the past year.

18 samples of milk, 3 of butter, and 1 of lard have been submitted to the Borough Analyst for Analysis. Three of the milk were deficient in fat, 13 per cent., 22 per cent., and 65 per cent. respectively. The offenders were proceeded against before the Borough Bench and were fined 10/- and 32/- costs, 10/- and 34/- costs, and 10/- and 30/- costs respectively.

Infectious Diseases.

During the past year 77 cases have been admitted into the Sanatorium, consisting of 29 Diphtheria, 31 of Scarlet Fever, 6 of Typhoid, 2 of Measles, 6 of suspected Diphtheria, 2 of suspected Scarlet Fever, and 1 of suspected Typhoid Fever.

There were 6 fatal cases consisting of 4 of Diphtheria, 1 of Scarlet Fever, and 1 of Typhoid Fever.

During the year I have disinfected 84 premises where infectious disease had occurred, and where the Medical Officer deemed it necessary, the bedding, &c., was removed to the Sanatorium for disinfection in the apparatus.

In infectious cases, which were not removed to the Sanatorium, periodical visits were paid to the houses to ensure proper isolation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEARSON,

Assoc. San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary and Building Inspector's Office,
Folkestone,

January 28th, 1897.

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of the
Corporation.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Seventh Annual Report as Buildings' Inspector for the year ending Dec., 31st, 1896.

During the past year plans of 142 new houses, 10 houses and shops, 9 additions to premises, 3 alterations to premises, 3 of new roads and sewers, 1 estate plan, 1 Board School plan, and 1 of a Congregational Church have been approved by the Building's Committee.

The whole of these buildings have been erected, or are in course of erection, with the exception of 18 houses, which have not as yet been commenced.

To ensure compliance with the Building Bye-laws I have made 1,353 inspections of buildings in course of erection, and 378 inspections of the drainage of new buildings, including the testing of drains.

In 22 cases I reported certain builders for committing breaches of the Building Bye-laws to the Committee, and on notices being served, the bye-laws were complied with, but in one case a builder was summoned before the Borough Bench and the maximum penalty of 40/- and 9/- costs was inflicted.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEARSON,

Building's Inspector.

